

REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

Quiet Activity All Around, But No Boomish Feeling; Large Sales Reported.

SUBURBAN ACTIVITY, MANY HOME-MAKERS

Rumors of Industrial Activity in Eastern Part of City Creates Interest — Barton Heights Claims to Be Outgrowing Richmond in a Way.

The real estate agents, and the most of them are generally of an optimistic turn of mind, are not especially enthusiastic over the business of the past week. Just why they should not be is not easily to be understood by a layman. Certain it is that there is very active inquiry, and many of the inquirers are out of town people, who, having heard of the good things that are in store for investors in Richmond property, are seriously considering the possibility of investing in these parts.

Home-seekers and house-builders are looking for land upon which to build, and there are but few vacant lots in the city that are not under the eye of one or more of these classes. There is certainly no cause for the real estate men to be blue. And yet, because the past week's business does not foot up quite as much in dollars and cents as did that of the previous week, there are people who think times are dull.

How Sales Foot Up. As a matter of fact the sales of real estate within the city and just beyond in the suburbs for the past week amounted to about \$200,000.

The largest single sale represented a transfer of \$2,000 of property, it being residence property at Seventh and Franklin Streets. The next largest was perhaps the sale that was made by McCurdy & Johnson, of a vacant lot on West Franklin Street, opposite the Jewish Synagogue. It is said that this sale closed up the very last vacant lot on West Franklin Street that is on the market.

The purchaser was John H. Lyons, and for the thirty-foot lot he paid the goodly sum of \$5,000. It is the purpose of Mr. Lyons to build upon this lot a handsome residence, and he says work will be commenced upon it at once.

Among the buyers of lots the past week was Mrs. George M. West, of Tuckahoe. This lady bought a beautiful site at the corner of Park Avenue and Addison Streets, upon which she proposes to build a handsome home for her own occupancy.

West and East Business. The activity that has been noticeable for several weeks past in West End and Lee Annex property has suffered no abatement. Lots are being bought in that section every day by home-makers, as well as speculators, who know a good thing when they see it. There is no special boom in these properties, but there is a quiet activity that means a great deal.

In the eastern section of the city there has developed during the past week a kind of quiet activity. There are various rumors about certain vacant lands being bought up, or soon to be bought up, by manufacturing establishments, and the building thereon of plants that will employ many people. These rumors cannot be traced to anything like a responsible fountainhead, and there may not be anything in them, but all the same they are creating not a little talk in the eastern sections of the city.

The good days during the past week have had a telling effect upon the industrial market in the city. Park, and there has been unusual activity in the demand for lots, and the building of homes have never been brisker than now during the history of that suburb. A number of new plans for attractive homes are now offered on the market by bidders, and among the ones just started is a very handsome home being built for Mr. A. M. Walkup, the contractor, located at the corner of Chamberlayne and Washington Streets.

Ground was broken for this house during the past week, and also for the attractive residence of B. W. Wilson, of the Wilson Paper Box Company. The Glinter Park Company will in the near future put the road, and the east side of Brook Avenue in excellent condition, and as some of the most desirable lots owned by them front on that avenue this will add greatly to their attractiveness. Arrangements are also being made by a number of lot owners to have a four foot granite sidewalk put down in front of their property, which will add another feature to the attractiveness of Glinter Park.

Woodland Heights. There has been much activity in Woodland Heights the past week and a number of excellent sales were made to clients who will build handsome homes. This is a singularly attractive and beautiful property, and is reached by the only double-track railway line of Richmond, the Forest Hill line. At its western border is the famous Forest Hill Park, dedicated to the people for a recreation park and playground.

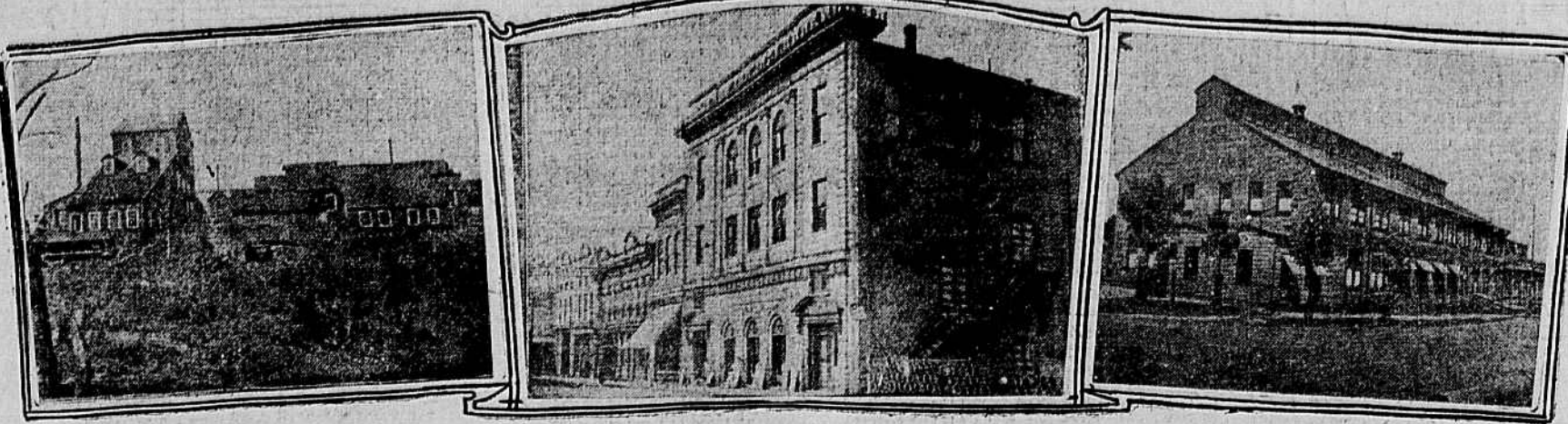
The management of Woodland Heights have introduced a unique feature in that no extra charge is made for sewerage service or for the fine granite sidewalks which are being laid.

Within the next few days four handsome houses will be started on Rivercrest Road, and one or more on Hillcrest Road, two of the streets fronting the river.

Woodland Heights is setting a fast pace both in the selling of lots and in development, which promises great things for this year.

May Resume Work. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., February 20.—The resumption of the double tracking work by the Southern Railway in the Chattanooga district gives rise of great belief that the day is not far distant before the company will resume the work on the Winesap-Egypt cut-off, which passed through Rivercut and West Lynchburg.

VARIED INDUSTRIAL SCENES IN VIRGINIA



TRUCK SHIPPING FROM VIRGINIA PORTS.

GRAND OLD MAN OF THE JAPANESE

Prince Ito Talks of His Boyhood and His Wonderful Career.

DISCUSSES NEW JAPAN

Tells of His Plans for Korea and Friendship for United States.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Tokio. I have just returned from a morning spent with Prince Ito, the Grand Old Man of Japan. He is the Bismarck, Gladstone, John Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant of this empire, and he should write a book telling the history of his country he should have to begin it as Caesar did his commentaries on the Gallic war, by saying, "Magna pars fui" (a great part of which I was).

In connection with Marquis Inouye, Prince Ito was the first to see the Japanese necessity of Japan's adopting the Western civilization if she would hold a place among the nations of the world. As a boy he fought against the Shogun in order to put the emperor in power; and when the new government was constituted in 1868 he was one of the chief organizers, being vice-minister of finance and public works. At that time he was only twenty-seven years of age. Two years later he was sent to the United States to study our financial system, which he introduced here; and at the age of thirty he was sent abroad as a special envoy to arrange treaties with the European powers.

A little later we find him in Europe studying the constitutions of the principal nations, and after that back in Tokio writing the constitution which now governs Japan. In one of the rooms of the villa where I visited him to-day that great paper was prepared, and as I talked with the prince I could hardly realize that the new Japan, with its wonderful system of finance and banks, its parliament elected by the people and the machinery of its politics, which is one of the best in the world, was largely formed by him, now more than a quarter of a century ago.

Prince Ito began his life young. He was only twenty-two when, after trying in vain to drive the foreign junks out of Yokohama, he slipped away one dark night and got a ship for Shanghai, having determined to follow the Western world and spy out the secrets of the barbarians who then threatened the very existence of his native land.

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RECEIPTS ARE HEAVY IN TOBACCO MARKETS

Three-Fourths of State's Crop Has Been Sold Already. Quality of Offerings During Past Week a Trifle Off—Prices Are Easier.

The balmy and springlike weather which has prevailed all over Virginia and North Carolina for the past two weeks naturally led to large deliveries of loose leaf tobacco. All of the markets have had active business. The receipts on the Richmond market were somewhere close to 750,000 pounds. The major part of the receipts came by rail, and with but minor exceptions consisted of the sun-cured stocks from the north side of the James.

The manufacturers and other buyers of the weed were not especially pleased with the offerings. They think they have cause to complain that the tobacco growers have not been as careful as they might have been in preparing the weed for the market.

Much of the stock was put upon the warehouse floors in rather bad order, and as a matter of course, the bidders were a little shy of it. However, the good sun-cured stock, as it showed up, brought fairly good prices, and many of the growers who attended the sales expressed themselves as pleased with their accounts of sales.

An experimental farmer, who cultivated a few acres in the neighborhood of Ashland, told The Times-Dispatch man that his figures, which were around the \$16 point, were eminently satisfactory—so much so that he expected to increase his acreage this year.

The farmers attending the sales are making all sorts of inquiries about the new idea of raising white Burley in Virginia. Not a few of them have carried home seeds with which they propose to experiment with the most sorber weed. In the meantime the guarantee of the R. A. Patterson Tobacco Company holds good.

Winston-Salem Market. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WINSTON-SALEM, February 20.—This market has had a big job on its hands taking care of the tobacco brought to town. Over 500,000 pounds have been sold this week. Prices have been quite satisfactory all during the week. Practically all the firm that buy on this market have had their buyers on sales all the week and sales have been lively. The warehousemen show no disposition to weaken in their bidding, but are little shy of it. However, the very top notch, even if they have to take it themselves. Only those who follow the sales can understand just how important a part the warehousemen are playing in getting the growers

CHATHAM MAY HAVE AN ELECTRIC LINE

Getting in Touch With Wide-Awake South Boston, Houston and Halifax County.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHATHAM, VA., February 20.—For some time past, in fact, for several years, there has been discussion here and throughout Pittsylvania county regarding the building of an up-to-date electric road from here to South Boston and Houston in Halifax county. Recently the Board of Trade, which has been brought to new life by the recent write-up of Chatham and its advantages in the Industrial Section of The Times-Dispatch, has taken decided interest in this movement, and it is more than likely that in the near future the electric railway project will assume something like definite shape.

The line could be run along a section of easy grades, and would not be over thirty-five miles in length. It would penetrate and open up to activity one of the finest sections of Virginia, penetrating as it would, the best tobacco growing region on the map, and a region that is rich in timber of varied character, mineral lands and the very finest of farming lands. It would at the same time place Chatham in connection with another railway line—the Norfolk and Western—and give it competing rates.

While no very definite steps have as yet been taken, it is more than likely that within a short time a charter may be asked for and the scheme put in good shape. Such a line would connect two of the finest counties in Virginia, and bring them in closer touch than the dirt roads can, and would also bring Chatham and South Boston, two of the best tobacco markets in the State, in easy touch.

HEAVY CROP EXPECTED.

Many Carloads of Seed Potatoes Already Received. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CAPE CHARLES, VA., February 20.—It has been stated by many farmers in this vicinity and surrounding country that the round potato crop will, with a favorable season, be the largest ever known in this section for many years. There has been received for different consignments thirteen cars of seed potatoes from Maine, and several more yet likely that within a short time they will arrive at another station. Owing to the short crop last year there has been a seed famine, and it is believed by many the spring crop will be shortened on account of the small farmers not having sufficient potatoes to plant, and owing to the high price of seed, they will be unable to get them.

COTTON FACTORIES ARE SPRINGING UP

Past Two Months Notable for Activity in This Line of Industry.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) BALTIMORE, February 20.—The most notable activity in Southern industrial matters during the last two months has been in cotton manufacturing circles," says the Manufacturers' Record in this week's issue. "There has been a very marked revival in the building of mills by established companies, as well as by new organizations. Owing to unsatisfactory financial conditions during 1908 and the latter part of 1907, there had been a decided lessening in cotton mill building, as compared with previous years, but since the first of the year a very remarkable change has taken place. During the last three months of 1908 the total number of spindles reported for the entire South as to be installed in new mills and in the enlargement of old mills was only 57,000.

"Immediately after" the first of the year announcements of mills to be built or of existing plants to be enlarged became more numerous, and the record of the past seven weeks shows a total of about 250,000 or more spindles, representing a capitalization of about \$6,000,000. The more important of these announcements, not as merely projected, but as definitely decided upon, are as follows:

Millions Invested.

"Brandon Mills, Greenville, S. C., increased capital stock by \$450,000, and engaged Lockwood, Greene & Co., of Boston, to prepare plans for an addition to be equipped with 25,000 spindles and 700 looms for manufacturing print cloth; Manchester Cotton Mills, Manchester, Ga., capitalized at \$500,000, will award contracts on March 8 for a plant of 30,000 spindles and 500 looms to manufacture cotton cloth; Unity Cotton Mills, Lagrange, Ga., will award contracts on March 8 for doubling present mill of about 10,000 spindles and 400 looms at a cost of probably \$250,000; Waco, Cotton Mill, Launburg, N. C., organized with capital stock of \$300,000, and awarded contracts for 15,000 spindles and accompanying machinery; Woodside Cotton Mills, Greenville, S. C., decided to spend \$500,000 for an additional mill of 25,000 spindles and 700 looms; Erwin Cotton Mills Company, West Durham, N. C., decided to build a plant of 50,000 spindles and 1,500 looms for

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GREAT THINGS FOR VARIED VIRGINIA

Soil of the Old State Brings All Things That Are Good.

TIMBER, IRON AND COAL, TRUCK, GRAIN, FRUIT

Prosperity Everywhere in Virginia—Day of Small Things. No Race Suicide in Brunswick—Original Home of Iron Interest in America.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON. The varied advantages of Old Virginia in commercial, industrial and agricultural ways are simply too numerous to mention in one brief article. It must be remembered that Virginia takes in a whole lot of territory, and more varied territory cannot be found on the map of any State in the Union. Out West there are States, every inch of the ground of which is just like every other inch. In Illinois, for instance, there is no special variety of products. What is raised in one county of the State can be raised in almost any other county. It is true that in some of the middle counties certain minerals and a few whiskey distilleries may be found that may not be found up on Lake Michigan, but as a general rule Illinois is a kind of a one-sided State. So also is Indiana and Ohio, and even Michigan. Wisconsin varies the monotony a little, but after the wheat fields of that State have been boosted to their fullest extent there is very little left to be proud about, except the beer gardens and the breweries of Milwaukee, and it is said that these latter have made the whole State famous in a way, such as that way is.

Cannot Be Beaten. Even far-famed Kentucky, with all of its fine horses, blue grass, rye whiskey, Burley tobacco, and some other products not necessary to name, cannot boast of the variety of wealth that comes out of that part of the earth, which is encompassed in the State of Virginia.

In this State we have ancient history galore, and there are some old fogies who are of the opinion that ancient history is Virginia's best asset, but there are a lot of young men, active, twentieth-century youngsters, who take little or no stock in this idea, and who are trying to show to the world that Old Virginia is the twentieth-century paradise. It truly is that in a commercial and in an industrial sense. The reason why it is that may be said to be its variety of undeveloped but rapidly being developed wealth.

Everything at Hand. Barren certain luxuries and necessities, which in the nature of the case can be produced only in tropical lands, there is nothing that is required for the sustenance, comfort and good living of men, women and children which cannot be brought to the surface in one way or another in Old Virginia. What the lands of the valleys, ridges, mountains, plains, marshes and swamps of Virginia, together with its rivers, creeks, lakes and bays, do not produce is worthless to the consumers of good things.

The natural resources and some other things that may not be entirely natural, but are more or less peculiar to Virginia, I propose to talk about just a little while.

I have before me a letter from a friend up in Fauquier county, and it is a real interesting letter in that it tells about the "day of small things" how certain small industries may prosper in this good Old State.

White Oak Trees. There are acres upon acres of old Virginia lands upon which may be found white oak trees of the smaller variety, known locally as post oaks. People here, in the habit of cutting them down to make stake posts and fence posts, and they make good ones, but only a small part of the tree can be thus used, and the balance has been going to waste, left upon the land to decay. Some years ago, according to this letter from Morrisville, a village in Fauquier county, a German by the name of Gottlieb Mayor located in that region. Certain mining interests first attracted him to Morrisville. He did not favor the day of small things, and he could but observe on the mining lands he operated many white oak trees, misshapen, small and in other ways unfit for the sawmills, and true to his German training, he sought to convert this wasted material into something that would bring in the cash. In his idle hours he went to making white oak baskets, the old Virginia kind, although he got his idea from a German basket-maker he had known in his boyhood days.

Split Baskets. The letter which comes to my table tells the story better than I can. It says:

"Mr. Mayor had never made a split basket, but he resolved to experiment. His first efforts, while not satisfactory to himself, were rapidly improved upon, and he found the local demand swallowed up everything he could make at a price far above the ribbon style, machine-made ones offered for sale in the stores. He now makes baskets for every conceivable purpose, and he fills special orders from Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. There are large corn hamper-makers, egg and feeding baskets, work-baskets of various fancy patterns, clothes baskets, and baskets to keep the baby out of mischief, waste baskets, and all stout and well made. So stoutly built are his corn baskets that two stout work horses fitted to opposite handles and urged to their best efforts can not pull the basket apart, and with this great strength they are neat and attractive in appearance."

A Basket Enthusiast.

It is no secret that the writer of the letter from which I have quoted, is an enthusiastic citizen of Morrisville by the name of J. A. McLaughlin. He seems to be of the opinion that

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